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EXAMINER

HOSSAIN, FARZANA E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/058,035	Applicant(s) TAKAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner Farzana E. Hossain	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to communications filed 12/19/2006. Claims 1, 5-9 have been previously presented. Claim 2 is amended. Claims 3, 4 are original.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 6, 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed 12/19/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In regard to Claim 1, the applicant argues that Lajoie does not disclose or suggest a control unit that "selects a sub-channel having the largest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information" and "selects a sub-channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information." The applicant argues that Lajoie does not even mention sub-channels.

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A new ground of rejection is made for the limitations of Claim 1. Lajoie is used in combination with Ellis to render the claims obvious. Lajoie discloses that a list cannot be scrolled once the largest or smallest channel number has been reached and no other adjacent channel number is larger or smaller in the sub category. Lajoie is not used to disclose a sub channel. Ellis discloses main channels and sub channels (Figure 11). Lajoie discloses that selects a channel having the largest channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the largest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52) and selects a channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the smallest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52). See rejection below.

3. Applicant's arguments filed 12-19-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that Claim 2 is not rendered obvious because Kim does not disclose "the search in reciprocation is a search for an adjacent sub-channel channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key" (Page 13) or that Kim does not disclose the control unit that "searches the main channel currently

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received in reciprocation for the sub-channel to be selected when there is not the upward/down adjacent sub-channel in the channel information, where the search in reciprocation is a search for adjacent sub-channel channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key" (Page 13).

In response to the arguments, Kim clearly discloses searches the main channel currently received in reciprocation for the sub-channel to be selected when there is not the upward/down adjacent sub-channel in the channel information, where the search in reciprocation is a search for adjacent sub-channel channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key (Figure 4, 410, 414, 418, 420, 424, Page 3-4, paragraph 0040-042). Kim discloses the control unit is search for the next adjacent minor channel number whether it is higher channel or a lower channel to perform the function of selecting a channel (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0040-0042). The selection of an operation key in the UP direction searches for the next adjacent minor channel number in the UP direction, and when there is not a sub channel in the UP direction, then an adjacent minor channel of the DOWN direction is selected (Figure 4). The same search occurs an operation key in the Down direction is selected for the next adjacent minor channel number in the DOWN direction, and when there is not a sub channel in the DOWN direction, then an adjacent minor channel of the UP direction is selected (Figure 4). Kim meets the limitations. See rejection below.

4. Applicant's arguments over the double patenting rejection are not found persuasive. See rejection below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 5, 6, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis et al (US 2005/0010947 and hereafter referred to as "Ellis") in view of Lajoie et al (US 6,772,433 and hereafter referred to as "Lajoie").

Regarding Claims 1 and 9, Ellis discloses a channel selection device or remote control (Figure 2, 42) used in a digital/analog broadcasting receiver or set top box and a method for channel selection, (Figure 1, Figure 10, Figure 11) comprising,

a receiver or television (TV) for receiving a digital/analog broadcasting signal originated from a broadcasting station or a source (Figure 1, Page 2, paragraphs 0033, 0034)

a processor or control circuitry for processing the digital/analog broadcasting signal received from the receiver (Figure 1, Page 2, paragraph 0036) and then outputting the signal to a display device for displaying an image (Figure 1, 50, Page 2, paragraphs 0036-0039),

a memory for storing data (Page 2, paragraph 0036) and channel information or program listings contained in the broadcast signal is distributed to the set top boxes (Page 2, paragraph 0033)

a control unit or control circuitry and processor (Figure 1B, 165) for controlling the sections of the receiver (Page 2, paragraph 0036), and

an input device or remote control (Figure 2, 42, figure 1, 40) for inputting a user's instruction for channel selection to the control unit (Column 3, lines 62-67), wherein the device receives a digital broadcast and an analog broadcast which are originated through different channels (Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068, Figure 11), the digital broadcast has, in one main or major channel, one or a plurality of sub-channels or minor channels for originating contents (Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068, Figure 11) therethrough, the sub-channels are assigned virtual channels headed by the same channel number as the main channel in the analog broadcast (Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068, Figure 11, 85) and

wherein the control unit controls the device such that the receiver receives the broadcasting signal of a selected channel upon reception of the channel selection instruction from the input device (Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068, Figure 11, 85) and the processor processes the received broadcasting signal (Page 2, paragraph 0036, Figure 5, Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068, Figure 11, 85), wherein the input device includes an UP/DOWN key for instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel adjacent in the upward/down direction in the same main channel (Figure 1, 40, Figure 2, 42, Figure 10, 85, Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068). Ellis discloses that the control unit references

channel information to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel (Figure 11, 85, Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068), the control unit references the channel information to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the UP/DOWN key is operated (Page 2, paragraph 0036, Figure 5, Figure 11, Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068); selects a sub-channel having the largest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and remaining within the main channel (Figure 11, Page 5, paragraph 0068), selects a sub-channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and remaining within the list of related channels of the main channel (Figure 11, 85, Page 5, paragraph 0068).

Ellis is silent on a receiving an encoded digital/analog broadcasting signal, a digital/analog decoder for decoding the digital/analog broadcasting signal, a memory for storing channel information contained in the broadcasting signal, the digital decoder decodes the received broadcasting signal, in order to obtain channel information contained in the decoded broadcasting signal and then store the channel information in the memory, and the control unit references the channel information stored in the memory. Ellis also discloses selecting a channel of the largest sub channel number when receiving instruction by the UP key and selecting a channel of the lowest sub channel number when receiving instruction with the DOWN key (Figure 11) and that the scrolling of the sub channels remain with the main channel (Page 5, paragraph 0068). Ellis is silent that the largest channel number is selected when receiving the UP key and

not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information and selects a channel having the smallest channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information.

Lajoie discloses a digital television that receives encoded analog or digital data (Figure 1, Column 4, lines 36-37) and a digital/analog decoder for decoding the digital/analog broadcasting signal or a control unit or microprocessor (Figures 3, 30, Column 4, lines 47-50) decodes and processes the broadcast to display on the display device via a remote control or input device (Figure 3, 30, 59), a memory for storing channel information contained in the broadcasting signal or electronic program guide (EPG) information (Figures 15-17, 21, Column 13, lines 33-40). Lajoie discloses the digital decoder decodes the received broadcasting signal, in order to obtain channel information contained in the decoded broadcasting signal and then store the channel information in the memory, and the control unit references the channel information stored in the memory to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent channel in respective categories or favorite channels (Column 4, lines 47-50, Figure 3, Column 13, lines 25-40). Lajoie discloses that the input device includes an UP/DOWN key for instructing the control unit to select a main programming categories and a sub programming on the favorite or theme list adjacent in upward/downward direction in the same theme or favorite categories (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52) to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel or theme or favorite

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programming in respective categories through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the UP/DOWN key is operated (Column 15, lines 4-7, Figure 15, Figure 20). Lajoie discloses that selects a channel having the largest channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the largest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52) and selects a channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the smallest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ellis to include a digital television that receives encoded analog or digital data (Figure 1, Column 4, lines 36-37) and a digital/analog decoder for decoding the digital/analog broadcasting signal or a control unit or microprocessor (Figures 3, 30, Column 4, lines 47-50) decodes and processes the broadcast to display on the display device via a remote control or input device (Figure 3, 30, 59), a memory for storing channel information contained in the broadcasting signal or electronic program guide (EPG) information (Figures 15-17, 21, Column 13, lines 33-40), the digital decoder decodes the received broadcasting signal, in order to obtain channel information contained in the decoded broadcasting signal and then store the

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channel information in the memory, and the control unit references the channel information stored in the memory to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel (Column 4, lines 47-50, Figure 3, Column 13, lines 25-40), selects a channel having the largest channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the largest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52) and selects a channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the smallest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-5) as taught by Lajoie in order to provide a user to easily select programs when there are several programs per major category and programming can be easily updated to include the non-circular scrolling of channels (Figures 15-21).

Regarding Claim 5, Ellis and Lajoie disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Ellis discloses on the input device includes a second UP key and a second DOWN key (Figure 2, 42, Navigation keys, Page 3, paragraph 0047), wherein the second UP and DOWN keys instruct the control unit to select a main channel (Figure 11, 85, Page 5, paragraph 0068, Page 3, paragraph 0047) and the UP and DOWN keys instruct the control unit to select sub-channels (Page 11, 85, Page 5, paragraph 0068).

Regarding Claim 6, Ellis and Lajoie disclose all the limitations of Claim 1. Ellis discloses on a first mode of switch over configuration the UP and DOWN keys instruct the control unit to select a main channel and a second mode of the switch over configuration the UP and DOWN keys instruct the control unit to select a sub channel (Figure 11, Page 5, paragraphs 0064-0068).

7. Claims 2-3, 7, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani et al (US 6,661,472 and hereafter referred to as "Shintani) in view of Kim et al (US 2001/0052124 and hereafter referred to as "Kim").

Regarding Claim 2, Shintani discloses a channel selection device or remote control (Figure 1B, 100) used in a digital/analog broadcasting receiver or digital television (Figure 1B, 150) comprising,

wherein a receiver or television (TV) for receiving an encoded digital/analog broadcasting signal (Figure 1B, 150, 160) originated from a broadcasting station or a source, as it is necessarily included that a source broadcast the signal to the receiver,

wherein a digital/analog decoder or channel processing circuit (Figure 1B, 170) for decoding the digital/analog broadcasting signal (Column 4, lines 31-43) received from the receiver (Figure 1B, 150, 160) and then outputting the signal to a display device for displaying an image (Figure 1, 155, Column 4, lines 42-43),

wherein a memory or channel look up table (Figure 1B, 175) for storing channel information contained in the broadcasting signal decoded by the digital decoder or channel processing circuit (Column 4, lines 8-23),

wherein a control unit or channel control circuit (Figure 1B, 165) for controlling the sections of the receiver (Figure 1B, 165), and

wherein an input device or remote control (Figure 1B, 100) for inputting a user's instruction for channel selection to the control unit (Column 3, lines 62-67); wherein the device receives a digital broadcast and an analog broadcast which are originated through different channels (Column 4, lines 1-7), the digital broadcast has, in one main or major channel, one or a plurality of sub-channels or minor channels for originating contents (Column 4, lines 1-7) therethrough, the sub-channels are assigned virtual channels headed by the same channel number as the main channel in the analog broadcast (Column 2, lines 46-65) and

wherein the control unit controls the device such that the receiver receives the broadcasting signal of a selected channel upon reception of the channel selection instruction from the input device (Figure 3, 300, 305, Column 5, lines 64-65, Column 6, lines 1-8, Figure 5, 500, 502) and the digital decoder or channel processing circuit decodes the received broadcasting signal (Figure 5, 520), in order to obtain the channel information contained in the decoded broadcasting signal and then store the channel information in the memory (Column 7, lines 1-5); wherein, the input device includes an UP/DOWN key (Figure 1, 120). Shintani discloses the ability to use the UP/Down key for selecting the next channel which includes next major and minor channel by checking the memory or look up table when receiving instruction (Column 6, lines 9-20).

Shintani is silent on the input device includes an operation key for instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel adjacent in upward/downward direction in the same

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main channel, the control unit references the channel information to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the operation key is operated; wherein the control unit searches the main channel currently received in reciprocation for the sub-channel to be selected when there is not the upward /downward adjacent sub-channel in the channel information, wherein the search in reciprocation is a search for an adjacent minor channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key.

Kim discloses a digital television that receives encoded analog or digital data (Figure 1, 100, 102) and a control unit or microprocessor (Figures 1, 2, 124) processes the broadcast to display on the display device via a remote control or input device for a main or major channel with a sub or minor channel (Page 2, paragrah 0029). Kim discloses EPG or electronic program guide information stored (Page 1, paragraph 0005). Kim discloses that the channels for major and minor channels are part of the EPG information (Page 2, paragraph 0025). Kim discloses that the input device includes an operation key for instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel adjacent in upward/downward direction in the same main channel (Page 3, paragraph 0040), the control unit or microprocessor references the channel information provided by the decoder (Figure 1, 108) to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the operation key is operated (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0040-0042); the control unit searches the main channel in reception currently in reciprocation or searches what the next highest or lowest channel should be for the sub-channel to be selected when

there is not the upward/downward adjacent sub channel in the channel information (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0041-0042); wherein the search in reciprocation is a search for an adjacent minor channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0041-0042).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shintani so that the input device includes an operation key for instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel adjacent in upward/downward direction in the same main channel (Page 3, paragraph 0040), the control unit or microprocessor references the channel information provided by the decoder (Figure 1, 108) to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the operation key is operated (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0040-0042); the control unit searches the main channel in reception currently in reciprocation or searches what the next highest or lowest channel should be for the sub-channel to be selected when there is not the upward/downward adjacent sub channel in the channel information (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0041-0042); wherein the search in reciprocation is a search for an adjacent minor channel in an opposite direction from a direction selected by the operation key (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0041-0042) as taught by Kim in order to provide a user to easily select programs when there are several programs per major channel (Page 1, paragraph 0006) as disclosed by Kim.

Regarding Claim 3, Shintani and Kim disclose all the limitations of Claim 2. Shintani discloses storing channel information in the channel lookup table (Figure 1,

175). Kim discloses EPG or electronic program guide information stored (Page 1, paragraph 0005). Kim discloses that the channels for major and minor channels are part of the EPG information (Page 2, paragraph 0025). Kim discloses comprising an OSD (On-Screen Display) output circuit or video processor/generator for providing OSD display of a list of the channel information stored in the memory in such a state that the digital and analog broadcasts thereof are mixed, on the display device wherein the list of the channel information is displayed in a vertically (Figure 5A, Figure 5B)/horizontally (Figure 3) arranged state in order of channel number, and a cursor for selecting the channels as interlocked with the instruction by use of the operation key is indicated in the list of the channels displayed on the display device in an OSD manner (Figure 3, Page 2, paragraph 0030, Figure 5A, Figure 8, Figure 9A, 9B, Pages 4-5, paragraph 0052-0054).

Regarding Claim 7, Shintani and Kim disclose all the limitations of Claim 2. Kim discloses that the operation key is dedicated to instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel (Pages 3-4, paragraph 0040-0042).

Regarding Claim 8, Shintani and Kim disclose all the limitations of Claim 2. Shintani discloses a first mode of switch over configuration the operation key instructs the control unit to select a main channel and a second mode of the switch over configuration the operation key instructs the control unit to select a sub channel (Column 6, lines 9-20).

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8. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintani in view of Kim as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Eyer (US 6,483,547).

Regarding Claim 4, Shintani and Kim disclose all the limitations of Claim 2. Shintani discloses receiving a digital broadcast according to the ATSC (Advanced Television Systems Committee) standard (Column 2, lines 36-38). Shintani and Kim are silent on receiving an analog broadcast according to the NTSC (National Television Systems Committee) Standard. Eyer discloses a system that receives analog broadcasts and digital broadcasts for major and minor channels (Column 4, lines 22-35). Eyer discloses receiving an analog broadcast according to the NTSC (National Television Systems Committee) Standard (Column 6, lines 18-24). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Shintani in view of Kim to receive an analog broadcast according to the NTSC Standard (Column 6, lines 18-24) as taught by Eyer so that analog broadcasts conform to one standard.

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory

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obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7050117 in view of Ellis and Lajoie. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are broader in scope and therefore would unduly extend the time wise monopoly afforded to the other claims.

The following limitations are differences in the claim limitations for the two applications.

The instant application's limitations of selects a sub-channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key" is met by the limitations "the control unit select the smallest channel number of the sub channel form among the digital one if the main channel contains a plurality of sub-channels, in channel changing on the basis of the changing instruction from the input device" of U.S. Patent No. 7,050,117.

The instant application is missing the limitation of "the input device has UP/DOWN keys assigned for sub-channel switch over and RIGHT/LEFT keys assigned for main channel switch over." It would be obvious to include the features in the instant application as sub-channel switch over allows for changing sub channels. It would be obvious to modify U.S. Patent No. 7,050,117 to make the claim broader.

The instant application's limitation "the input device includes an UP/DOWN key for instructing the control unit to select a sub-channel adjacent in upward/downward direction in the same main channel, the control unit references the channel information to thereby select an upward/downward adjacent sub-channel in the main channel through which a broadcast is being received currently, each time the UP/DOWN key is operated; selects a sub-channel having the largest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information" are additional features.

It would be obvious to include the limitations in Application No. U.S. Patent No. 7,050,117 as they are disclosed by the prior art. Ellis also discloses selecting a channel of the largest sub channel number when receiving instruction by the UP key and selecting a channel of the lowest sub channel number when receiving instruction with the DOWN key (Figure 11) and that the scrolling of the sub channels remain with the main channel (Page 5, paragraph 0068). Lajoie discloses that selects a channel having the largest channel number, when receiving the instruction by the UP key and not finding an upward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the largest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52) and selects a channel having the smallest sub-channel number, when receiving the instruction by the DOWN key and not finding a downward adjacent channel in the main channel with reference to the channel information as the list of related channels can not continue scrolling once the smallest channel number has been reached (Column 15, lines 4-7, Column 25, lines 30-52).

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Farzana E. Hossain whose telephone number is 571-272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FEH

February 12, 2007


CHRIS KELLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600